

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05
CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4215
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 9935

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 2 LINE 1)

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: GATT, ETRD, NI
SUBJECT: NIGERIAN TRADE RESTRICTIONS

REF: STATE 300659 (NOTAL)

1. U.S. APPROACHED UK, WEST GERMAN, JAPANESE MISSIONS IN LOW KEY TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THEY INTEND PRESS FOR NIGERIAN NOTIFICATION. UK AND JAPANESE MISSIONS SAID THEIR AUTHORITIES APPARENTLY UNAWARE OF NIGERIAN IMPORT BAN AND LICENSING STRINGENCIES (NOT APPEARING TO RECALL OUR HAVING BROUGHT SAME TO THEIR ATTENTION SEVERAL MONTHS AGO). BOTH PROFESSED TO BE DISINTERESTED. FRG MISSION ALSO UNAWARE OF NIGERIAN RESTRICTIONS. HOWEVER, THEY CHECKED WITH THEIR AUTHORITIES IN BONN AND OBTAINED FOLLOWING REACTION. SINCE NIGERIA IS ACP COUNTRY, FRG WOULD NOT TAKE LEADING ROLE EITHER IN SPEAKING OUT AGAINST RESTRICTIONS OR IN ASKING NIGERIANS TO NOTIFY TO GATT. SAID EC COUNTRIES, SHOULD THEY ENCOUNTER PARTICULAR DIFFICULTIES WITH LOME CONVENTION COUNTRIES, WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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ATTEMPT TO SOLVE PROBLEMS BILATERALLY. WE EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT THIS APPROACH, AS IT APPEARED GIVE LOME CONVENTION OBLIGATIONS A STATUS SUPERIOR TO GATT OBLIGATIONS. FRG SAID THIS NOT THEIR INTENTION, BUT THEY LEFT CLEAR MESSAGE THAT THEY WOULD NOT PRESS ANY ACP COUNTRIES UNDULY.

2. COMMENT: WE WONDER WHETHER ANY EC COUNTRIES ARE GETTING DISCRIMINATORY LICENSING PREFERENCES FROM

NIGERIA. JAPANESE RELUCTANCE TO RAISE MATTER IN THE GATT SEEMS ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH THEIR RECENT BEHAVIOR. HOWEVER, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR US TO RECONCILE EC-COUNTRY IGNORANCE OF NOW LONGSTANDING NIGERIAN IMPORT BAN. HEC WAS, FOR EXAMPLE, QUICK TO COMPARE NOTES WITH US WHEN ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL IMPOSED RESTRICTIONS EARLIER. OUR DEAL WITH THE EC TO FACILITATE GATT HANDLING OF THE LOME CONVENTIONS WAS MADE ON THE FIRM UNDERSTANDING THAT NO REVERSE PREFERENCES WERE TO BE GIVEN. CATTO

CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

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